

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please replace the Abstract with the abstract as shown in the attached Appendix. A mark-up of the Abstract follows:

ABSTRACT OF DISCLOSURE

~~The invention relates to a~~A vehicle steering apparatus ~~including~~includes a variable gear ratio mechanism which is provided in a steering force transmitting system, and a lock mechanism which restricts relative rotation of an input shaft and an output shaft of the transmitting ratio changing mechanism. The lock mechanism is engaged by inserting a lock arm in a indented portion of a lock holder of the lock mechanism. A play angle when the lock mechanism is engaged by inserting the lock arm in the indented portion is set to be smaller than a rotational angle of a motor which is required for outputting six different signals.